



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

See

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/550,514	09/23/2005	Sylvain Schwartz	4590-443	3006
33308	7590	05/09/2007		
LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP 1700 DIAGNOSTIC ROAD, SUITE 300 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER ZHANG, YUANDA	
			ART UNIT 2828	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/09/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/550,514	Applicant(s) SCHWARTZ ET AL.	
	Examiner Yuanda Zhang	Art Unit 2828	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/23/05:08/29/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 09/23/05 and 08/29/06 is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: the word "birefrigent" should be replaced with "birefringent". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-9 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nilsson (US Patent 5,177,764).
6. In re claim 1, Nilsson discloses a unidirectional planar ring laser comprising: an optical ring cavity including at least three mirror, a solid-state amplifying medium and a feedback system, the cavity and the amplifying medium being such that two counter-propagating optical modes can propagate in opposite directions one with respect to

other inside said optical cavity (inherent due to non-reciprocal rotation and reciprocal rotation), the feedback system allowing the intensity of the two counter-propagating modes to be kept almost the same (due to an unidirectional oscillation), the feedback system comprising, inside the cavity, an optical assembly including a polarizing element and a device (Faraday rotator, non-reciprocal rotation) exhibiting a nonreciprocal effect that acts on the polarization state of the counter-propagating modes, wherein said optical assembly further includes a device (Birefringence, reciprocal rotation) exhibiting a reciprocal effect that also acts on the polarization state of the counter-propagating modes, the feedback system comprising control means for controlling at least one of the effects of said devices (see abstract).

7. In re claims 2 and 3, Nilsson discloses the linear polarizer (Col. 2 lines 30-33) is one of the mirrors of the cavity (inherent).

8. In re claim 4, Nilsson discloses the linear polarizer is an inclined glass plate, the angle of inclination on the optical modes then being approximately equal to the Brewster angle (Col. 7 lines 55-62).

9. In re claims 5-7, Nilsson discloses the reciprocal rotator, a birefringent optical plate in a non-planar cavity, exhibiting a reciprocal effect is a second linear polarizer (reciprocal polarization), the polarization direction of which is not parallel to that of the first polarizer (Col. 8 lines 50-54), the feedback system consists of means for adjusting the non-reciprocal effect of the device exhibiting a non-reciprocal effect (Col. 9 lines 5-38).

Art Unit: 2828

10. In re claim 8, Nilsson discloses a reciprocal effect is an optical plate exhibiting electrically controlled birefringence (Col. 9 lines 34-36).

11. In re claim 9 Nilsson discloses a nonreciprocal effect consists of a material exhibiting the Faraday effect and polarized by a permanent magnet, the feedback system consists of means for adjusting the reciprocal effect of the device exhibiting a reciprocal effect (Col. 4 lines 5-25).

12. In re claim 11, Nilsson discloses the amplifying medium and the material exhibiting the Faraday effect are produced in the same material (birefringent material is made of YAG which is the same as solid-state laser medium, Nd:YAG; Col. 9 line 23).

13. In re claim 12, Nilsson discloses the cavity is monolithic, the counter propagating optical modes propagating, inside the cavity, only in a solid material (see abstract).

14. In re claim 13, Nilsson discloses the amplifying medium is Nd:YAG (see description of the prior art section).

15. In re claim 14, Nilsson discloses the cavity is optically pumped by at least one diode laser (see description of the prior art section).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2828

17. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nilsson (US Patent 5,177,764) in view of Aronowitz (US Patent 3,867,034).

18. In re claim 10, Nilsson has disclosed the claimed invention above except an induction coil controlled by an adjustable electrical current.

19. However, with reference to figure 1, Aronowitz discloses an induction coil controlled by an adjustable electrical current (Col. 3 lines 14-38).

20. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the ring laser of Nilsson with an induction coil as taught by Aronowitz in order to eliminate temperature and stray magnetic field effects by alternating the direction of the magnetic field (Col. 1 lines 55-60).

21. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nilsson (US Patent 5,177,764) in view of Brasseur et al (US Patent 6,731,423 B1).

22. In re claim 15, Nilsson has disclosed the claimed invention above except the cavity comprises at least one optical fiber in the form of a ring, which includes optical couplers for the entry and exit of the counter-propagating beams and of at least one optical pump beam.

23. However, Brasseur et al disclose an optical fiber ring having a first end (64) is coupled to a first end (entry) of the Raman chamber. A second end (exit) of the optical fiber is coupled to a second end of the Raman chamber (cavity) (Col. 2 lines 12-15).

24. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the ring laser of Nilsson with an optical

Art Unit: 2828

fiber ring as taught by Brasseur et al in order to obtain a desired high output power by eliminating the spatial modes (Col. 2 lines 18-19).

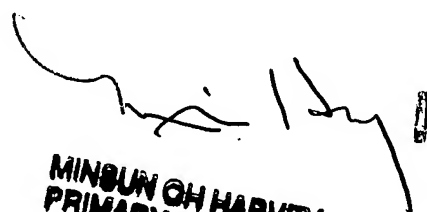
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yuanda Zhang whose telephone number is 571-270-1439. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, Alternating Fri 8:30am-6:00p EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minsun Harvey can be reached on 571-272-1835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

YZ
04/30/07


**MIN SUN OH HARVEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER**